

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 13-15 and 18-23 were pending for examination, claim 13 being independent.

Claim 24 is withdrawn.

Claims 25 – 31 have been amended.

After the present amendment, claims 13-15 and 18-23 and 25 - 31 are pending for examination, claim 13 being independent.

The Amendments


In compliance with 37 CFR 1.116 (b)(1) and (2), claims 25-31 have been amended in a manner consistent with the Examiner's requirements in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action. Entry of the claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Regarding the claim rejections, the Applicants maintain their position that rejections are improper and that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

It is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated.

No additional fee is believed to be due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1425.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey B. Powers
Registration No. 45,021
Bausch & Lomb Incorporated
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604
Telephone: 585 338 5526

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